

**CLEAR LAKE ECON.
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
HOUSTON, TEXAS
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1992**

**I want to thank your president,
Jim Reinhartsen, for inviting me
here tonight. ((I happened to be in
the neighborhood, and thought I
should drop by.))**

**Really, though, you are
neighbors, and more than that,
you're friends. Tonight, I want to
salute your commitment to
America's future by your strong
support of NASA.**

I believe that the more people know about NASA -- its programs, its discoveries, the new knowledge gained about our environment and universe, the technology that creates entire new industries -- the more they realize what NASA does to keep America on the cutting edge. You know that better than anyone because you're right here every day.

You don't support NASA just because you're being neighborly, or just because it's good for business. You do it because NASA creates opportunity for the future.

We inspire students to learn, and give them hope that their world -- or should I say "worlds" -- will be better than ours.

I want to thank all of you for helping spread the word about the importance of a vigorous NASA, and especially for your help in the campaign to build Space Station Freedom.

A permanent space station will be the place where we become a true space-faring nation -- the place where we learn how to live and work in space.

All of our plans to build an outpost on the Moon and explore Mars depend on using Space Station Freedom to learn how to protect astronauts' health from the effects of long periods in space.

While these studies are going on, other researchers will be able to use the station's lab equipment to study biology, building materials, and of course, the one thing every pioneer finds: the unexpected.

When you get right down to it, Space Station Freedom will revolutionize our way of life in the 21st century the same way the Apollo program did in the 20th century.

Great days lie ahead for America's space program. There's a whole universe out there waiting to be explored. We're going to find out if there's life on Mars -- or was there life on Mars, and what happened to it. With a telescope on the Moon, we could discover if there are planets around nearby stars.

All this will help answer the age-old question, "Does life exist elsewhere or is it unique to Earth?"

This isn't a question for NASA. It's a question for every human being. In two months, NASA begins a major new effort to make the American people full partners with us as we open Space Center Houston. The space program doesn't belong to NASA; it belongs to the American people. They need to be full participants in everything we do.

Space Center Houston, with its hands-on educational approach reminiscent of EPCOT Center, will help do that.

Once people start hearing about Space Center Houston, the number of visitors should double or triple. I think it will be a major plus, and put the Clear Lake area on the map in a big way.

The pathway to the stars runs through Houston. You've been good neighbors, good partners, and we look forward to doing great things for America. Thank you.

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